

U P STATE BIODIVERSITY BOARD, LUCKNOW

BIODIV/NEWS



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Editorial

Esteemed Readers,

This quarter saw the celebration of the Wildlife Week which is celebrated every year in the state of Uttar Pradesh from October 1st to 7th. The main objective of the celebration of this week is to promote idea of conservation of wildlife among people.

On this occasion, Uttar Pradesh State Biodiversity Board in collaboration with Biodiversity and Wildlife Conservation Lab, Department of Zoology, University of Lucknow and Institute for Wildlife Sciences celebrated Wildlife Week from 1st October to 7th October, 2018. The programme aimed at creating awareness among the youth to have a passionate heart for the wildlife. Several competitions and awareness campaigns were organized in various schools and colleges.

Hopefully, celebrations like these will ensure that the coming generation is sensitized to close destruction of biodiversity and build a future where people can live and prosper in harmony with nature.

We hope that you will find this Newsletter both interesting and informative.

-Editor

Contents

- 1- Wildlife Week (1st -7th October 2018)
- 2- Newspaper Clippings

1- Wildlife Week 2018

Wildlife Week is celebrated with great enthusiasm every year in the first week of October with the view to preserve the fauna, means the animal life, of the India. It was first started in the year 1952 with a great vision of saving the life of the wild animals by raising awareness. It involves planning to save wild animals from extinction. The Government of India has established an National Board of Wildlife which works to improve the awareness as well as the consciousness of the Indian people towards the wildlife preservation.



On this occasion, Uttar Pradesh State Biodiversity Board in collaboration with Biodiversity and Wildlife Conservation Lab, Department of Zoology, University of Lucknow and Institute for Wildlife Sciences celebrated Wildlife Week from 1st October to 7th October, 2018. Several competitions and awareness campaigns were organized in various schools and colleges.

Throughout the Wildlife week, people of all ages learned from experts through the seminars, lectures as well as hands-on workshops in order to become more close to the nature. Wildlife conservation is the plan to manage wildlife alongside with the human progress, both of which are connected to each other on this earth, therefore it is necessary to save the wildlife. The details of the programmes organized are given below:

Day-1: On 1st October 2018, different events like **Poster Making** on “Man and Animal conflict” मनु एवं पशु संघर्ष, **Greeting card making** on “Forest scene/ beauty” वन य स दृश्य, **Rangoli** on “Animal Cartoons” पशु काटू, **Tattoo Competition** on “Spiders and crabs” मकड़ियाँ और केकड़े, **Power Point Presentation** on “Role of Biodiversity Parks in wildlife conservation” जैव व वधता उद्यान का वन्यजीव संरक्षण, **Quiz** on “Wildlife”, **Debate Hindi/English** on “Culling of Nilgai, wild boar and monkey is ethical or unethical” नीलगाये, जंगल सुअर और बंदर को मारना नैतिक है या नहीं, **Collage** “Forest Ecosystem” वन पर चित्र तैयार करना in Regional Science City, Aliganj. Students enthusiastically participated in all the events and winners got felicitated by medals and certificates as prizes.

Date& Venue	Sessions				
October 1, 2018	10:00 am- 11 am	11:00-12:00 pm	12:00-1:00 pm	1:00-2:30 pm	2:30-3:30 pm
Scimax Building	Poster Making	Greeting Card making	Collage Making	Rangoli Competition	Tattoo
Regional Science City	(Man And Animal Conflict) Scimax Building Group A, B & C	(Forest Scene/Beauty) Scimax Building Group A& B	(Forest Ecosystem) Scimax Building Group A, B & C	(Animal Cartoons) Scimax Building Group A,B& C	(Spiders & Crabs) Scimax Building Only for group B & C
Committee Hall & Main Auditorium	10:00-11:00am Quiz (Wildlife) (Main Auditorium) Group- A,B&C	11:00 am-1:00pm Power Point Presentation (Role of Biodiversity Parks in Wildlife Conservation) Group B& C	5: 00 pm onwards VALEDICTORY Prize distribution & Exhibition (Main Auditorium)		
Regional Science City	10:00-12:00pm Debate (Culling of Nilgai, Wild Boar, and Monkey is ethical or unethical) (Committee Hall) Group- A,B&C	(Main Auditorium)			

Glimpses of Events



Participants of Poster competition



Poster of a Participant



Participant of Tattoo making



Participants of Tattoo making



Participant of Powerpoint presentation



Participant of Powerpoint presentation



Participants of Quiz competition



Participants of Rangoli competition



Rangoli by a participant



Participant making Rangoli



Participant making Rangoli



Felicitations of winners



Felicitations of winners



Felicitations of winners

Winners of Events held at Regional Science City, Aliganj

Poster Competition Theme: “Man and Animal Conflict”

Group-A

S.No.	Name	Class	Institute	Position
1.	SrishtiMaurya	VIII	St. Antony’s Inter College	I
2.	AalyaGambhir	IV	Loreto Convent	II
3.	VedPrakashMaurya	IV	St. Antony’s Inter College	III
4.	MauliAgarwal	VI	City Montessori School	Consolation

Group: B

S.No.	Name	Class	Institute	Position
1.	ShivankSrivastava	BA I	Chetna	I
2.	SonaliMaurya	B.Sc II	Chetna	II
3.	Shivangi	M.Sc I	CSJM University	III
4.	AdarshSrivastava	B.Sc II	S.V.M	Consolation

Group: C

S.No.	Name	Class	Institute	Position
1.	MeenaRawat	X	Chetna	I
2.	Tarannum	X	Chetna	II
3.	Jagjeet Singh	X	Chetna	III
4.	AjadKhatri	IX	Chetna	Consolation

Event: Card Making

Group: A

S.No.	Name	Class	Institute	Position
1.	AalyaGambhir	IV	Loreto Convent Intermediate College	I
2.	PriyankaRai	VI	Chetna	II
3.	Shweta Gupta	IV	Chetna	III
4.	Anjali Singh	IV	Chetna	Consolation

Event: Card Making

Group: B

S.No.	Name	Class	Institute	Position
1.	Rimjhim	VII	Chetna	I
2.	Vijay Kumar	VIII	Chetna	II
3.	Roshan Kesarwani	VIII	Chetna	III
4.	Avneet Kaur	VII	Chetna	Consolation

Event: Collage Competition

Group: A

S.No.	Name	Class	Institute	Position
1.	Saumya Pandey	IV	Chetna	I
2.	Aalya Gambhir	IV	Loreto Convent	II

Event: Collage Competition

Group: B

S.No.	Name	Class	Institute	Position
1.	Shubham Awasthi	XI	Chetna	I
2.	Ravi Pandey	XI	Chetna	II
3.	Vikramjeet Singh	XI	Chetna	III

Event: Rangoli (Animal Cartoon)

Group: A

S.No.	Name	Class	Institute	Position
1.	Nishmi Sahu	VII	Vani Prada	I
2.	Shikha Verma	VI	Vani Prada	II
3.	Arshi Ahmad	VII	Vani Prada	III
4.	Uzma Bano	VII	Vani Prada	Consolation

Event: Rangoli (Animal Cartoon)

Group: B

S.No.	Name	Class	Institute	Position
1.	Ananya Mittal	IX	N. Radians	I
2.	ParmveerMisra	X	Vani Prada	II
3.	Siddharth Mishra	X	Vani Prada	III

Event: Rangoli (Animal Cartoon)

Group: C

S.No.	Name	Class	Institute	Position
1.	Monika Yadav	B.Sc I	Lucknow University	I
2.	AvantikaKatiyar	B.Sc I	Lucknow University	II
3.	PoojaVerma	B.Sc I	Lucknow University	III
4.	NeerajYadav	B.Sc I	Lucknow University	Consolation

Event: Tattuo Competition (Spiders and Crabs)

Group: A

S.No.	Name	Class	Institute	Position
1.	MauliAgarwawl	VI	CMS	I

Event: Tattuo Competition (Spiders and Crabs)

Group: B

S.No.	Name	Class	Institute	Position
1.	Ananya Mittal	IX	Navyug Radiant, Rajendra Nagar	I

Event: Tattuo Competition (Spiders and Crabs)

Group: C

S.No.	Name	Class	Institute	Position
1.	Adarsh Srivastava	BFA	Shakuntala University	I
2.	Shivank Srivastava	B.A	JNPG	II
3.	Ashish Chaturvedi	DMLT	KGMU	III
4.	Puneet Singh	XII	G.D. Academy	Consolation

Event: Quiz

Group: A

S.No.	Name	Class	Institute	Position
1.	Sparsh Sumani	VIII	CMS, Rajajipuram, Campus-II	I
2.	Srishti Maurya	VIII	St. Antony's Inter College	II
3.	Mauli Agarwal	VI	CMS	III
4.	Ved Prakash Maurya	IV	St. Antony Inter College	Consolation

Event: Quiz

Group: B

S.No.	Name	Class	Institute	Position
1.	Puneet Singh	IX	Centurion Defense Academy	I
2.	Hemadri Tripathi	IX	St. Fidelis College	II
3.	Aditya Malik	IX	Centurion Defense Academy	III
4.	Nitik Raj	IX	Centurion Defense Academy	Consolation

Event: Quiz

Group: C

S.No.	Name	Class	Institute	Position
1.	Shivank Srivastava	BA-I	JNPG	I
2.	Himanshu Ojha	BA-II	Lucknow University	II
3.	Adarsh Srivastava	BFA	SVN	III
4.	Arshita Jain	M.Sc I	Lucknow University	Consolation
5.	Shivangi	M.Sc I	CSJM University	Consolation
6.	Santul Shankar	BA-I	Lucknow University	Consolation

Event: Debate (English)

Group: C

S.No.	Name	Class	Institute	Position
1.	Pallavi Bharti Pathak	M.Sc I	CSJM University, Kanpur	I
2.	Divyanshi Singh	B.Sc I	Lucknow University	II
3.	Dania Khan	B.Sc III	Centurion Defense Academy	III
4.	Puneet Singh	XII	Centurion Defense Academy	Consolation
5.	Nitik Raj Singharia	XII	Centurion Defense Academy	Consolation

Event: Debate (Hindi)

Group: C

S.No.	Name	Class	Institute	Position
1.	Supriya Rai	B.Sc I	Bharti Vidya Bhavan Degree College	I

Event: Power Point Presentation

Group: A

S.No.	Name	Class	Institute	Position
1.	Sparsh Sumani	VII	CMS, Rajajipuram Campus-II	I

Event: Power Point Presentation

Group: B

S.No.	Name	Class	Institute	Position
1.	Himadri Tripathi	IX	St. Fidelis College	I

Event: Power Point Presentation

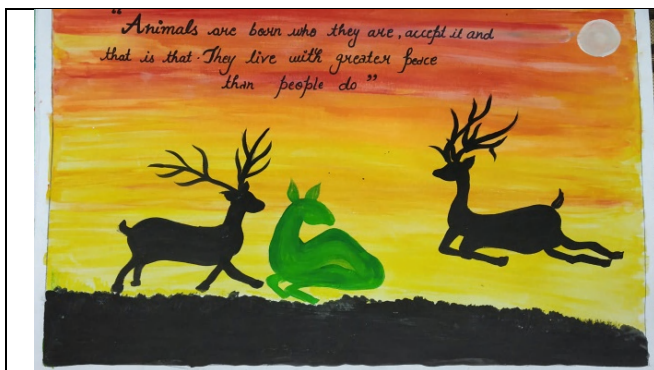
Group: B

S.No.	Name	Class	Institute	Position
1.	Ravi Singh	M.Sc II	Lucknow University	I
2.	Richa Upadhyay	M.Sc I	CSJM University, Kanpur	II
3.	Anuja Dwivedi	B.Sc II	Lucknow University	III

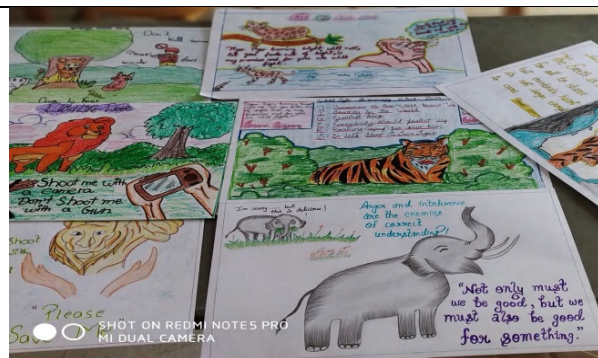
Day-2: On 2nd October 2018, Poster making competition was organized at Universal Public School, R.B.L Road, Lucknow. The topic of poster making was “Man and Animal conflict” मनु एवं पशु संघर्ष.

Photographs of Events

Poster making on “Man and Animal conflict” मनु एवं पशु संघर्ष



Poster by a participant



Poster by a participant



Participant making their poster



Participant of Poster making competition



Participants making their posters



Participants of poster competition



Felicitation of winner



Felicitation of winner



Group A winners photo with Volunteers



Group B winners photo with Volunteers



Winners of Group A



Winners of Group B

Winners of Event: Poster Competition

Theme: "Man and Animal conflict"

Group-A

S.No.	Name	Class	Position
1.	Saumya Gautam	VIII	First
2.	Gauri Mishra	VIII	Second
3.	Ishani Mishra	VIII	Second
4.	Shweta Sharma	VII	Third

5.	Sonalika Yadav	VII	Consolation
6.	Ujjawal Kumar	IV	Consolation
7.	Harshita Singh	V	Consolation
8.	Pratigya Singh	V	Consolation

Group-B

S.No.	Name	Class	Position
1.	Sandhya Verma	XII	First
2.	Saltanat Khan	X	Second
3.	Nancy Kashyap	XII	Third

Day-3: On 3rd October 2018, Poster making competition was organized at **Swami Vivekanand Inter College, Alambagh, Lucknow**. Around 150 students participated in the Poster Making Competition on “**Man and Animal conflict**” मनु एवं पशु संघर्ष. At last all the winners felicitated with medals and certificates. Gold medal for first prize, Silver medal for second prize, Bronze medal for the third and Books for consolation.

	
Winners with prize and certificate	Group photo of students participated in Poster Competition

Winners of Event: Poster Competition
Theme: Man and Animal conflict” मनु एवं पशु संघर्ष

Group-A

S.No.	Name	Class	Position
1.	Alankritaverma	5 th B	First
2.	Lucky	5 th	Second
3.	UmeyHamja	7 th	Second
4.	PoojaKumari Gupta	5 th	Third
5.	ArjunRawat	8 th	Consolation





Poster of winners (Group A)

Group-B

S.No.	Name	Class	Position
1.	Aparna Yadav	12 th	First
2.	Chunmun Prajapati	12 th	Second
3.	Nikki Yadav	12 th	Third
4.	Somya	9 th	Consolation



Aparna Yadav, 12th, SVIC



Chunmun Prajapati, 12th, SVIC



Nikki Yadav, 12th , SVIC

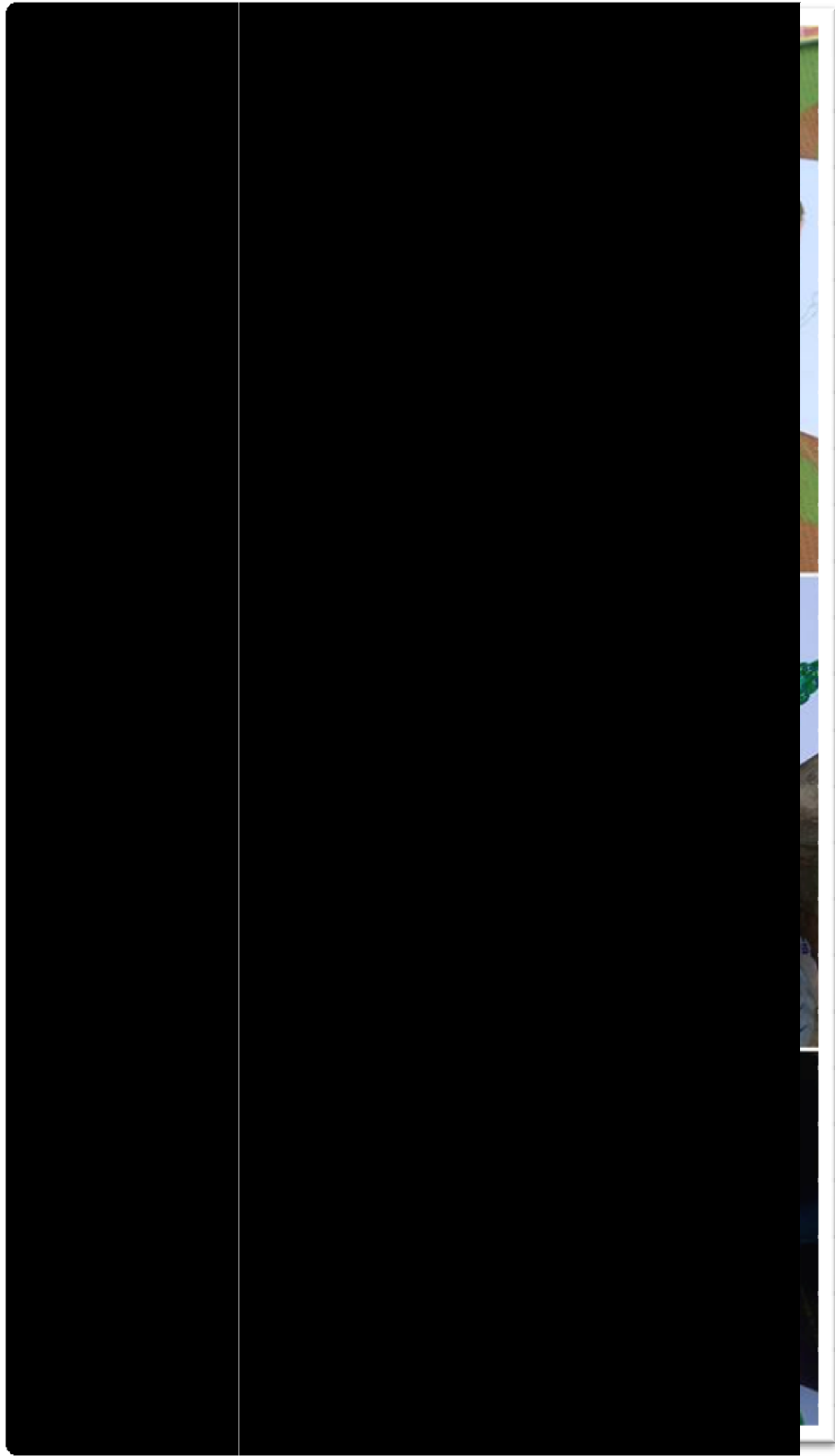


Somya , 9th , SVIC

Winners Poster Group B

Day-4: Wildlife Week was celebrated with the kids of slum areas at Robinhood Academy, Aashiana, Lucknow. The students of slum areas of Aashiana got invited to take part in Poster competition organized at Robinhood Academy, Aashiana, Lucknow. These students were underprivileged students and an opportunity was given to them to learn and explore their talent to create a difference in their lives. They actively took part in the events with great enthusiasm and drawn different forms of Wildlife .The winners got felicitated with medals and certificates.

Apart from this in senior group some of the volunteers of Robinhood Army also took part and drawn beautiful posters on Big Cats.



Glimpse of Poster Competition held at Robinhood Academy, Aashiana, Lucknow

Results

Winners of Junior Group of students

S.No.	Name	Class	Institute	Position
1.	Seema	VI	Robinhood Academy, Aashiana	First
2.	Nancy	IV	Robinhood Academy	Second
3.	Mohit	III	Robinhood Academy	Third
4.	Anshu	III	Robinhood Academy	Consolation
5.	Somya	VI	Robinhood Academy	Consolation
6.	Radha	II	Robinhood Academy	Consolation

Winners of Senior Group of Volunteers of Robinhood Army

S.No.	Name	Institute	Position
1.	ChhaviTripathi	Robinhood Academy	First
2.	RupeshTiwari	Robinhood Academy	Second
3.	Roshini Gupta	Robinhood Academy	Third
4.	AnishaSrivastava	Robinhood Academy	Consolation

Photographs of the event held at Robinhood Academy, Aashiana



Winners of Poster Competition



Felicitation with medals and certificate



Group photo with Participants & Volunteers



Participants enthusiastically drawing posters



Winner of Poster Competition(Slum kids)



Second prize winner from Junior Group



Volunteers Participating in Poster Competition



Winners of Senior Group (Volunteers of Robinhood Army)

Day -5: On 5th October 2018, Wildlife Week was celebrated at Chetna Sansthan (A Society of the Welfare of Handicapped) Sector - C Aliganj , Lucknow. About 135 students participated in poster making competition. There were two groups, which took part in the poster making competition.

Group A - Mentally Retarded Students

Group B – Hearing Impaired students

**Winners of Event
Poster Competition**

Theme: A view of Animal (Mentally Retarded students)

Scene of Zoo (Hearing impaired students)

Group – A

MR junior

S.No.	Name	Age	Institute	Position
1.	Neha	8 to 15	Chetna Sansthan	First
2.	Simran Gautam	8 to 15	Chetna Sansthan	Second
3	Somu Pandey	8 to 15	Chetna Sansthan	Third
4	Imran ali	8 to 15	Chetna Sansthan	Consolation
5	Aryan Pal	8 to 15	Chetna Sansthan	Consolation

MR Senior

S.No.	Name	Age	Institute	Position
1.	Depa Panchali	16+	Chetna Sansthan	First
2.	Ali Mohammad	16+	Chetna Sansthan	Second
3	Riki Agrawal	16+	Chetna Sansthan	Third
4	Shiva Gautam	16+	Chetna Sansthan	Consolation
5	Ssshari Rizvi	16+	Chetna Sansthan	Consolation

Group –B (Hearing Impaired)

Primary (Nursery to third)

S.No.	Name	Institute	Position
1.	Rimjhim Srivstava	Chetna Sansthan Vaniprada	First
2.	Vaishna Visahu	Chetna Sansthan Vaniprada	Second
3	Anoop	Chetna Sansthan Vaniprada	Third
4	Shubham	Chetna Sansthan Vaniprada	Consolation
5	Nadeem	Chetna Sansthan Vaniprada	Consolation

Group – A

S.No.	Name	Institute	Position
1.	Avneet Kaur	Chetna Sansthan Vaniprada	First
2.	Siddhi Sahu	Chetna Sansthan Vaniprada	Second
3	Komal	Chetna Sansthan Vaniprada	Third
4	Iqra	Chetna Sansthan Vaniprada	Consolation
5	Shweta Gupta	Chetna Sansthan Vaniprada	Consolation

Group - B

S.No.	Name	Class	Institute	Position
1.	Jageet Singh	10 th	Chetna Sansthan Vaniprada	First
2.	Azad Khan	9 th	Chetna Sansthan Vaniprada	Second
3	Nisha Kashyap	12 th	Chetna Sansthan Vaniprada	Third
4	Tavannum	10 th	Chetna Sansthan Vaniprada	Consolation
5	Shubham Avasthi	11 th	Chetna Sansthan Vaniprada	Consolation
6	Meena Rawat	10 th	Chetna Sansthan Vaniprada	Consolation



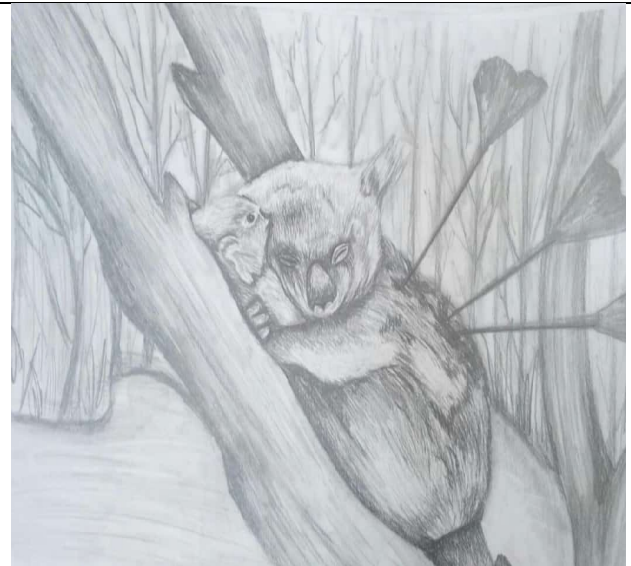
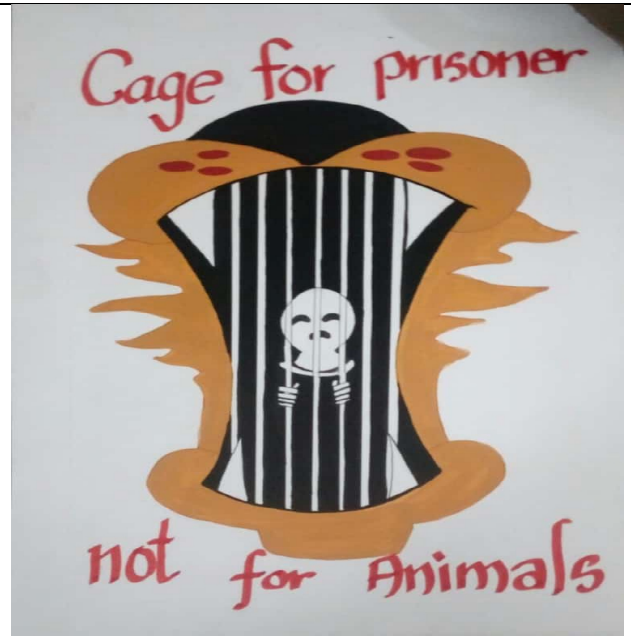
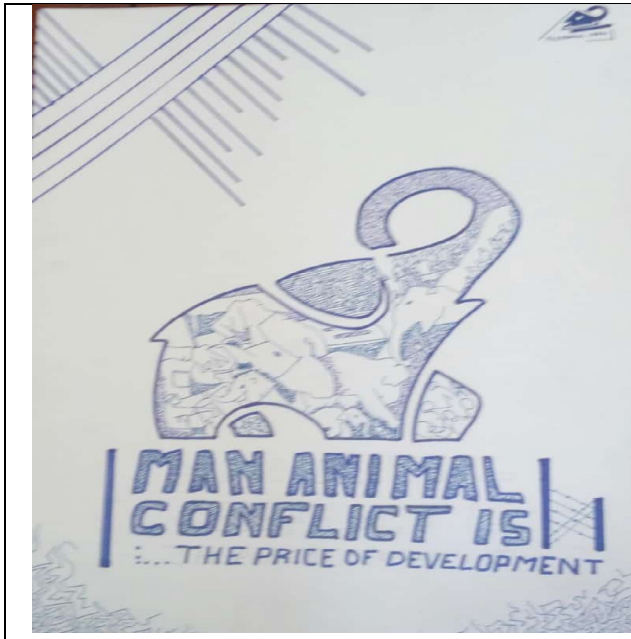


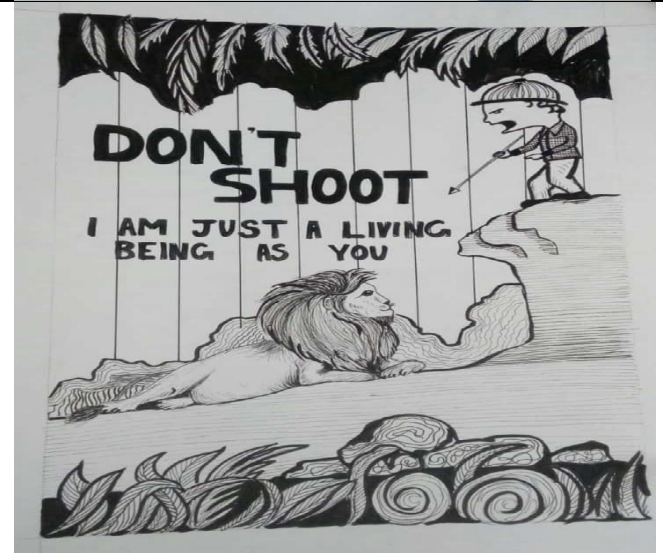
Day -6: On 6th October 2018, Poster making competition was organized in College of Art and Crafts, Lucknow University, Lucknow. The topic of poster making is “Man and Animal conflict”

Winners of Event
Poster Competition

Theme: Big Cats – Predators under threat...

S.No.	Name	Class	Institute	Position
1.	Trapti Singh	B.V.A. 2 nd year	College of Arts and Crafts University of Lucknow	First
2.	\Digvijay Singh	B.V.A. 2 nd year	College of Arts and Crafts University of Lucknow	Second
3	HimanshuVerma	B.V.A. 4 th year	College of Arts and Crafts University of Lucknow	Third
4	Abhinav Kumar	B.F.A. 2 nd year	College of Arts and Crafts University of Lucknow	Third
5	Priya Dwiedi	B.V.A. 3 rd year	College of Arts and Crafts University of Lucknow	Consolation
6	Amisha Sharma	Commercial Art 3 rd year	College of Arts and Crafts University of Lucknow	Consolation
7	Akansha	Applied Art 2 nd year	College of Arts and Crafts University of Lucknow	Consolation
8	Ankit Ranjan	M.V.A. 1 st year	College of Arts and Crafts University of Lucknow	Consolation







Day-7: In the series of awareness campaign for wildlife conservation, Maharaja Agrasen Vidyalaya, Moti Nagar, Lucknow also took part enthusiastically in this campaign. A poster competition was organized in which many students took participation and well performed. Among winners, Ms. Radha of class third received first prize for which she was accolade with Gold medal. Ms. Divya of class fourth, grabbed Silver medal for second position. Ms. Vaishnavi of class fifth secured third position and received Bronze medal. Another two participants, Ms. Muskan Maurya and Nisha Kumari of class fourth got consolation prize. The list of winners is given below.

Result

S.N.	Name	Class	College/Institute	Position
1	Radha	III	Maharaja Agrasen Vidyalaya	I
2	Divya	IV	Maharaja Agrasen Vidyalaya	II
3	Vaishnavi	V	Maharaja Agrasen Vidyalaya	III
4	Muskan Maurya	IV	Maharaja Agrasen Vidyalaya	Consolation
5	Nisha Kumari	IV	Maharaja Agrasen Vidyalaya	Consolation



Ms. Radha receiving First Prize



Ms. Divya grabbing Second Prize



Ms. Vaishnavi secured Third Prize



Ms, Muskan getting Consolation Prize



Ms. Nisha Kumari getting Consolation



Group photo with winners and participants

2- Newspaper Clippings

The Hindu – 04October, 2018



The Hindu – 07 October, 2018



The Hindu – 18 October, 2018

LUCKNOW THE HINDU
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2018

Puerto Rico's insects affected by climate change

Scientist warns of cascading effect on the food chain

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

After bees and birds, insects and other arthropods have also suffered massive losses, a study from a Puerto Rico forest published on Monday showed, citing the impact of climate change.

Measuring the population of arthropods, which includes insects, caterpillars, and spiders, is not simple but one method is to place sticky traps on the ground and in the forest canopy.

Researchers can also pass nets hundreds of times over the ground or in the foliage before weighing the dry captured biomass.

That is what the biologist Bradford Lister did in 1976 and 1977 in El Yunque National Forest in the U.S. Caribbean commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

Mr. Lister, of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York, returned there

with another biologist in 2011 and 2012 to use the same methods.

They found that the dry weight biomass of arthropods captured in sweep samples had declined by four to eight times, and by 30 to 60 times in sticky traps, according to their findings published in the U.S. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

This decline was accompanied by parallel reductions in insectivorous lizards, frogs, and birds, according to observations by the researchers.

"Everything is dropping," Mr. Lister told *The Washing-*

ton Post, warning of cascading effects on the food chain.


"If the tropical forests go, it will be yet another catastrophic failure of the whole Earth system," he said, "that will feed back on human beings in an almost unimaginable way."

According to the model used by the researchers, the blame lies principally with global warming. They reach this conclusion by noting Puerto Rico's rising temperature over about 40 years.

The mean maximum temperatures, recorded by a forest weather station, increased 2°C between 1978 and 2015.

But the effect of climate change is not uniform.

A study published in the journal *Science* in August concluded that, except in tropical regions, an increase in temperature was going to stimulate the population of harmful insects.



The Hindu – 22 October, 2018

LUCKNOW THE HINDU
MONDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2018

Marigold is the colour of sacrifice

It will be the symbol of remembrance for Indian soldiers martyred in World War I

DINAKAR PERI
NEW DELHI

The ubiquitous marigold will be the symbol of India's sacrifices when the world marks the centenary of the end of the First World War on November 11.

"It was felt that there was a strong need for India to have a uniquely Indian symbol that could allow citizens in India, as well as the international diaspora, to acknowledge the valour and sacrifice of the Indian armed forces in the service of the nation, including those who fell in the two world wars," said Sqn. Ldr. Rana T.S. Chhina (retd.), Secretary, Centre For Armed Forces Historical Research at the United Service Institution of India (USI).

In line with this, the 'India Remembers' project initiated by the USI proposed that the marigold



Big bloom: The proposal on marigold was made by 'India Remembers' project.

flower join the poppy as a uniquely Indian symbol of remembrance.

Why was it chosen?
"The marigold was chosen because it is easily and widely available and also because saffron is often seen as a colour of sacrifice," Sqn. Ldr. Chhina added.

The India Remembers project is a joint endeavour of the USI and the

Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) and a part of the 'India and the Great War' Centenary Commemoration project initiated by the USI in 2014 with the support of the Ministry of External Affairs and in close association with the British High Commission.

Widely promoted
The proposal was put up in 2016 and since then, the marigold has been widely promoted in all India-related commemorative events around the world. The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge laid a marigold wreath at India Gate during their India visit in April 2016.

Since then, the marigold has also been used across the UK, along with the poppy, as part of community engagement projects that seek to

highlight India's contribution in the First World War, a diplomatic source said. Similarly, the Great War Indian War Memorial to be inaugurated at Villers-Guislain in France has a bronze marigold wreath as an integral part of its design.

The First World War ended with the signing of the armistice on November 11, 1918. Since then, poppy was adopted as the symbol of remembrance as it grew widely in the Flanders fields in Europe where some of the major battles were fought. In India, the India Gate was built as the focal point to the Remembrance with the names of over 72,000 soldiers inscribed over it.

The government and the Army have to formally adopt the marigold to make it an official effort.

The Pioneer – 22 October, 2018

the pioneer
LUCKNOW | MONDAY | OCTOBER 22, 2018

CISH working to grow all-season mangoes

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE IN LUCKNOW

There are many countries in the world where mangoes are available in the markets throughout the year. In a bid to understand if mangoes can be grown in all seasons, Central Institute for Subtropical Horticulture (CISH) conducted a research in collaboration with Tamil Nadu Agriculture University at Kanyakumari and found around 20 natural off-season bearing types.

CISH director Shalendra Rajan said these varieties were known to consumers and got better prices as compared to other obscure off-season bearing varieties. "Flowering can be successfully induced through chemical treatment. Experimenting for off-season mango production with research collaborators in five research institutions revealed that successful off-season mango production was induced by climatic conditions. Areas with minimum temperature less than 15 degrees Celsius during the coldest months are not suitable for off-season flower induction and natural multiple flowering. Therefore, in subtropical places like Lucknow, chemical treatment could not set fruits due to low temperature hampering pollination and fertilisation. During the study potential off-season mango flowering and fruiting pockets were identified along the West coast of India," Rajan elaborated.

He said that in North, many off-season varieties are available and commonly known as Baramasi types. "Few off-season varieties have been introduced from South-East Asian countries like Thailand which can fruit in off-season also. Gradually, these are becoming popular with home garden lovers. In Lucknow, CISH collected off-season varieties like Baramasi Agni Bahar, Baramasi Mallik, Baramasi Mallahad, Royal Special, Niraajan, and several other from different parts of the country. Off-season flowering studies in subtropical region indicated that off-season flowering in Baramasi Ahars was regular as compared to other types at Lucknow," he said. He pointed out that off-season flowering at Lucknow indicated that flowering may occur during May-June leading to fruit set during May-June. However, the fruits were exposed to extreme high heat and heavy rains leading to development of blemishes on fruit surface which make fruits unsuited as a table purpose off-season variety.

He said various technologies for induction of off-season flowering and fruiting either by natural means or through chemicals had been developed leading to early harvest.

In an effort to consolidate off-season mango growers and bring them under a single umbrella, National Off-season Mango Producers Association (NOMA) was established in Kanyakumari to serve as a platform for off-season mango-growers, traders and scientists from Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

"Workshops were conducted in Kanyakumari for improving the quality of fruits as these fruits are often exposed to winter rains common in South. The association has provided a platform for joining of off-season producers not only from Tamil Nadu but some parts of Karnataka and other states as well. South Indian off-season mangoes are mostly available in January and producers search for an attractive market for premium price. Many a times, they have to sell their fruits before maturity for instant pickle purpose as winter rains may spoil the fruit appearance. Since there is no mango available during winters, farmer get attractive prices for their produce. Now they have established contacts with the wholesale market in Delhi but most of the time they could not get premium price for the off-season produces also," he explained.

The Hindu – 28 October, 2018

THE HINDU LUCKNOW
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2018

India home to two new gecko species

They seem to be restricted to very specific high-altitude areas in Western Ghats

AATHIRA PERINCHERY

The spot-necked day gecko and the Anaimudi day gecko, both very distinctly patterned lizards found only in the higher reaches of the Agasthyamalai and Anaimalai hill ranges in the Western Ghats, are the latest additions to India's reptile fauna.

Researchers including Vivek Philip Cyriac of the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Thiruvananthapuram (IISER-TVM) were surveying reptiles in Kerala's Shola National Parks in 2013 when they came across a predominantly greyish-brown coloured gecko.

Red iris
The approximately six-centimetre-long lizard sported an unusual, bright red iris (a thin band surrounding the pupil of the eye) and a long, striking amber line also ran down its dark back unlike anything the team had seen.

"We thought it could be a new species, but we had to make sure," said Cyriac.

So the team collected and studied the geckos' morphology in detail. The features they studied included the lengths of various body parts such as tail and fingers, lamellae (fine, plate-like structures on the base of gecko feet that help them scale vertical surfaces) and tubercles (tiny raised projections on their bodies). They compared these with the morphology of other similar-looking lizards to establish *Gnemaspis anaimudiensis* or the Anaimudi day gecko, as a new species.

Spot-necked day gecko
The team (including scientists at the Zoological Survey of India and National Centre for Biological Sciences) utilized the same method to describe yet another day gecko they spotted at Kollam's Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary - which is part of the Agasthyamalai hill range - in 2016. This gecko had bluish-white spots - in a 'distinct necklace-pattern' - on its nape. While this differentiated the species from the similar-looking Ponnudi day gecko and the Bedomme's day gecko, the lack of enlarged flat tubercles on its tail was one of the features that ruled out its possibility of being the ornate day gecko. The team named the new species *Gnemaspis maculicollis* or the spot-necked day gecko.

Both these diurnal geckos are currently known only from single localities in high-elevation forests located at more than 1,200 metres above mean sea level in the Ghats. There is a possibility that these day geckos could be present in the surrounding hills but more detailed surveys would be required to confirm this, said Cyriac.

While mountain ranges in general have a rather high diversity of such day geckos, the "accelerated environmental decline" that these regions face are a concern, he added.



The Anaimudi day gecko found in the upper reaches of Anaimalai ranges. - VIVEK PHILIP CYRIAC

The Pioneer - 05 November, 2018



The Hindu- 11 November, 2018



The Pioneer- 18 November, 2018

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LUCKNOW | SUNDAY | NOVEMBER 18, 2018

Giving colour to the desert

Who says butterflies can't flutter in a desert? The Al Noor Island in Sharjah buzzes with exotic and colourful wingers imported from The Philippines and Costa Rica, says SANGEETA YADAV





Cutting the wind with its electric blue, symmetrically patterned wings, taking a swirl up in the air and then smoothly landing on to a blooming flower. "That's rare Blue Swallowtail," says Ajmal Hasan, education manager at the Misha Archaeological Centre and Al Noor Island in Sharjah, as he brings his both palm close to the butterfly in order to make him sit on his hands.

"There are many techniques to hold these gentle creatures. Holding its wings would leave them injured. It is best to hold them gently from their body. The best way is to just bring both your hands close to butterfly and try to give a space for them to step on your hand. You can also put a cut fruit on your hand and they will come to suck the nectar from it. If you wear a bright floral dress, they will come and sit on you considering you a flower," Hasan says, who is originally from Bengaluru.

Amid hot climate, beautiful architecture and in middle of the Arabian Gulf sea, these lies Al Noor Island, a place of wonder nature which is home to over 15 exotic species of butterflies whose egg and larva are imported from the Philippines and Costa Rica and kept in a man-made habitat. Species like Zebra longwing Heliconian, passion-fruit butterfly, monarch butterfly, red admiral, orchard butterfly, equating bush brown, malachite, and many others flaunt their bright colourful wings. Resting with its wings held

upright over its body, these butterflies suckle the nectar of not just flowers but cut fruits as well like orange, banana, pineapple, and other fruits.

"They are fed fruit slices where they suck the nectar from the fruits using their long proboscis. Also, regular medicinal supplements are sprayed onto the fruits in order for the butterflies to obtain their mineral salts. The eggs and larvae are procured from suppliers based in the Philippines and Costa Rica currently. The butterflies arrive in their chrysalis state when they are nurtured and hatch within the Butterfly House. The total population has reached 400 now. Most of the Butterfly are common species and not

threatened in the wild. The life cycle of most butterflies housed with the island us from three to four weeks maximum," Hasan explains.

No matter what the temperature is outside, the oval-shaped glass enclosure maintains a tropical temperature between 26 to 30 degree C with 80 per cent and above humidity, best suited for the butterfly to flourish. "A lot of hard work, money and conservation time has been spent in developing the island, primarily so that Sharjah residents can enjoy a lush tropical paradise retreat in between the concrete jungle. Many tropical and milkweed plants have been installed inside the enclosure which gives a natural habitat to these

workshops and guided. Butterfly house tours in order to make the community more aware about how butterflies are not just beautiful but are part of nature and need to be protected," Hasan says.

A walk through the Al Noor Island, especially in the evenings, will mesmerise you with a light and sound show. The island is home to over 2000 trees and plants including Khejri trees, palm trees, peepal, hibiscus and many others. There are numerous art installations like Wind Column Structure which have been strategically placed across the island and aims to spread positivity. Inaugurated in December 2015, the island, which is spread across 45,000 square metres, has been designed by the famous Australian designer Andre Heller, the man behind creating many famous landmarks like Swarovski Crystal Worlds of Wattens in Austria and designing green spaces and landscapes in the gardens of Schonbrunn Palace in Vienna. Connecting Khalid Lagoon with a pedestrian bridge over the sea, this island is truly a great leisure destination that combines nature and art.

butterflies to lay eggs and transform into the next generation. The hope is to promote butterfly conservation awareness on the island and promote being outdoors appreciating nature's beauty. We routinely educate school children and visitors with engaging

The Hindu- 20 November, 2018

THE HINDU LUCKNOW
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2018

Make elephant corridors eco-sensitive zones: NGT

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has asked the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) to consider declaring all elephant corridors in India as eco-sensitive zones.

Following a plea that sought legal recognition for elephant reserves and corridors in the State of Assam, a Bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel said, "After hearing the matter for some time, it was noted by us that the issue of elephant corridors has been raised by different applicants and various judgments have also been passed by the Tribunal. Therefore, we direct the MoEF&CC to look into this aspect in a broader perspective and also to have a permanent solution."

The Bench further added, "We would like the Ministry to look into the issue by declaring all elephant corridors all over the country as eco-sensitive zones by exercising its power (under relevant Acts). We give two weeks time to the Ministry to look into the issue and to proceed in the matter."

The NGT was hearing a plea moved by Assam resident Pradip Kumar Bhuyan on the increasing number of unnatural elephant deaths taking place in the State.



The NGT was hearing a plea on the rise in unnatural elephant deaths in Assam.

The Hindu- 26 November, 2018

THE HINDU
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2018

Andaman & Nicobar Islands: home to a tenth of India's fauna species

The islands, comprising only 0.25% of country's geographical area, has 11,009 species, according to a publication by the Zoological Survey of India

SHIV SARAY SINGH
VILLAGE

The Narcondam hornbill, its habitat restricted to a lone island, the Nicobar megapode, a bird that builds nests on the ground, the Nicobar treeshrew, a small mole-like mammal, the Long-tailed Nicobar macaque, and the Andaman day gecko, are among the 1,067 endemic faunal species found only on the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and nowhere else.

A recent publication by the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) titled *Faunal Diversity of Biogeographic Zones* of India has for the first time come up with a database of all faunal species found on the island, putting the number at 11,009. The documentation proves that the islands, comprising only 0.25% of India's geographical area, are home to more than 10% of the country's fauna species.

Note of caution
The publication, however, also cautions that tourism, illegal construction and mining are posing a threat to the islands' biodiversity, which is already vulnerable to volatile climatic factors.

"The presence of a large number of species in such a small area makes the Andaman and Nicobar Islands one of the richest ecosystems and biodiversity hot spots in India. Some of the species in A&N islands are restricted to a very small area and thus more vulnerable to any anthropogenic threat," Kalash Chandra, Director-ZSI, and one of the authors of the publication, said.

The total area of the A&N islands, which comprises of 572 islands, islets and rocky outcrops, is about 8,249 sq. km. The population of the islands, which includes six particularly vulnerable tribal groups (PYTGs) - Great Andamanese, Ornge, Jarawa, Sentinelese, Nicobarese and Shompens - is not more than 4 lakh. The number of tourists visiting the islands has crossed the number of people residing in them, with latest data showing 4.87 lakh tourists visiting the islands annually.

In a recent development, the Government of India relaxed the Restricted Area Permit (RAP) norms for some foreign nationalities notified under the Foreigners (Restricted Areas) Order, 1962, to visit 29 of its inhabited islands, till December 31, 2022. This has triggered further concerns of increased anthropogenic pressures over the islands ecosystem.

Pankaj Sekharia, Senior Project Scientist, DST-Centre for Policy Research, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi, who has written extensively about the islands, said that some of the islands opened up for tourists are very difficult to access for a day visit.

Restricted Area Permit
Some of the islands removed from the RAP list have no habitation except PYTG like Sentinelese in case of North Sentinel Island, and there is nothing other than a police outpost on the Narcondam Island, Dr. Sekharia pointed out.

"The development paradigm that we are pushing for this place at the macro level, such as tourism, construction and development of military, are not taking in account these factors ecological fragility of the area (the endemic, geological volatility earthquakes and tsunami), and the impact they will have on local communities," he said.

The publication, running across 49 chapters and 300 pages, not only prepares a database of species found in particular category of animals, but also highlights the most vulnerable among them. Of the ten species of marine fauna found on the islands, the dugong/sea cow, and the Indo-Pacific humpback dolphin, are both classified as Vulnerable under the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

Among the 46 terrestrial mammalian species found, three species have been categorised as Critically Endangered - Andaman shrew (*Excubator andamanensis*), Jentink's shrew (*E. jentinki*) and Nicobar shrew (*E. nicobarensis*). Five species are listed as Vulnerable, and one species as Near Threatened, according to the IUCN.

Among birds, endemism is quite high, with 36 among 344 species of birds found only on the islands. Many of these bird species are placed in the IUCN Red List of threatened species under the Wildlife Protection Act (WPA).

Marine diversity
Similarly, eight species of amphibians and 23 species of reptiles are endemic to the islands, and thus are at high risk of being threatened.

Another unique feature of the islands ecosystem is its marine faunal diversity, which includes coral reefs and its associated fauna. In all, 355 species of scleractinian corals found in many corals are found in the island ecosystem, all which are placed under Schedule I of the WPA.

(From left) Narcondam Hornbill, Andaman serpent eagle, Microhylis chaturanga

The dugong and the Indo-Pacific humpback dolphin, are classified as Vulnerable under the IUCN Red List

The Hindu- 01 December, 2018

THE HINDU
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2018

Shrinking habitats jeopardise leopards' survival

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Leopards, the most adaptable of the big cats, are facing survival threat. Sample this: In the first 11 months of 2018, total leopard death count in India surpassed the number of those killed last year.

While 436 unnatural deaths of leopards have been reported from across the country this year so far, the total count stood at 431 in 2017, as per the data available with the Wildlife Protection Society of India (WPSI).

Of this, at least 289 mortality was due to human-animal conflicts, electrocution and deaths on railway tracks in the first eleven months of 2018, much higher than last year figure of 272 deaths due to these reasons, according to the WPSI data. The rest of the deaths was due to poisoning (see box).

Led by wildlife activist, Belinda Wright, the WPSI is a non-profit organisation engaged in protecting endangered species and their habitats through awareness, support, and training activities.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List has listed leopards as "vulnerable", while India's Wildlife Protection Act (WPA), 1972 has listed it as per with tigers under Schedule I.

According to Wildlife Institute of India Census conducted in 2011, there are around 9,000 leopards in India.

Development work like road construction through forest areas too have come as a threat to their survival as their prey base has reduced.

Depletion of prey base in forests has forced these big cats to kill livestock. "When a leopard finds it difficult to catch a prey in the jungle, it turns towards human settlement for food," said Delhi-based social activist and environmentalist Ranveer Mumukshu while referring to increasing leopard-human conflict in Uttarakhand.

People For Animals (PFA) Maharashtra unit president Babu Lal Jais talked about the State's failure in protecting the big cat. The Maharashtra Government is already under attack from the conservationists for killing of Tigris Area.

The State is reporting high number of human-animal conflicts as little efforts have been taken to ensure water and prey base. Hence the leopards are moving into habitations and agriculture fields in search of food and water, said Jais.

Krishna Tiwari, founder of the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) of India, lamented that leopard has never been given importance despite being the threatened species and its importance in the ecosystem.

He was of the view that due to the conversion of forest land into agriculture and upcoming developmental projects, this beautiful animal is fast losing its natural habitat. The mortality number could still be higher as many must have gone unreported.

People feel that leopards are seen in plenty, and as they don't want to talk about their survival, but at this mortality rate, we might lose this species rapidly, Tiwari warned.

Monthly-based Wildlife conservationist Vidya Athreya from the Wildlife Conservation Society echoed similar view calling upon the Government to understand that poaching is leopards is happening and more need to be taken to prevent its menace. Also, we need more veterinarians who are trained in wildlife cases, it asserted.

LEOPARD MORTALITY

LEOPARD DEATHS	2018	2017
Mortality	289	272
Poaching & Seizures	147	150
Total	436	431

The Hindu- 02 December, 2018

THE HINDU
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2018

Exotic animals rescued from smugglers die in Kolkata zoo

DRI officials question the infrastructure available at the facility

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT KOLKATA

Between June and October this year, officials of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) seized more than 150 exotic birds and other species being smuggled into the country. The interceptions were a major success not only because the seizures included birds like Pygmy Iakons, Eclectus parrot, Javan sparrows and Kookaburras, and mammals like leopards, hillcock gibbons and palm civets but also because the smugglers were using the borders with Bangladesh and Myanmar to push the animals into India, primarily to be traded in the pet market.

However, much to the surprise of the agency, 54 of these birds and mammals have died at the Alipore Zoological Gardens in Kolkata. Among the birds which died, seven are Pygmy falcons, a small raptor found in eastern and southern Africa, three Eclectus parrot, a bird native to the Solomon Islands, and eight species of Kookaburra, a terrestrial tree kangaroo native to Australia and New Guinea. Some of these species fetch thousands of dollars in the international pet market.

Interestingly, "infecting injury" has been cited as a reason for the deaths of eight birds in the mortality report. Other reasons include transport stress and shock, neurologic shock enteritis and multorgan failure.

Ashish Kumar Sanjaya, director of the Alipore Zoological Gardens, said, "There are provisions laid down by the Central Zoo Authority under which we have to accept the animals which are seized. We have taken every possible care of the animals but unfortunately some of them have died for various reasons."

The deaths have raised questions on whether the zoo has adequate infrastructure and resources to handle these exotic species. The director, however, said that the mortality was high as the seized animals were transported under conditions which put extreme stress on them.

Officials of the DRI Kolkata Zonal Unit have written to the Alipore Zoological Gardens and the State Wildlife Board to review the mechanism of keeping such birds and the pressing need for taking utmost care of the remaining species.

Meanwhile, activists have raised questions about the efficacy of such seizure and interceptions, if the birds were dying in the custody of the government itself.

In safe custody? A pair of Pygmy falcons rescued by the DRI.

The Hindu- 02 December, 2018

THE HINDU
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2018

Tiger numbers on the rise

Significant increase likely in 8 habitats across India

AARTHA PERINCHERY

At a time when tiger deaths dominate national news, a new study offers hope for wild tiger populations across countries by showing that under optimal conditions, tiger numbers can triple in 30 years across the world, including eight in India.

These are Assam, Vindhya Pradesh, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, western Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh. Currently, these regions support an estimated 6.1 tigers which could rise to 20 over the next 30-50 years, an increase of more than four times in India alone.

The study, published in *PLoS ONE*, was conducted by 49 conservationists of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) across 10 tiger-range countries. They compiled the best available information — including the occurrence and abundance of tigers and their prey from wildlife science studies, the connectivity of the protected areas and availability of protected buffer forests nearby as well as human disturbance including fragmentation through the human footprint index. These were used for developing site-specific and ecologically realistic targets and timelines for the recovery of tiger populations in 10 tiger global "recovery sites".

The results reveal that while the 10 tiger-range countries currently support 61 tigers, they could harbour 181 individuals. This rise could happen over 10-20 years in three sites including Uttarakhand's Western Rapti where natural prey is adequate, and over 30-50 years in the other areas where prey numbers would need to first recover.

While some tiger populations are already doing better (Chitwan, for instance, has over 20 tigers now), others such as western Rajasthan are not, wrote lead author Abhishek Barik, a scientist with Panthera and NCP India, in an email to The Hindu.

This new assessment could guide planning for tiger recovery globally and help inform more effective, integrated approaches to tiger conservation, he said.

Tackling growing incidents of human-tiger conflict in these areas would be critical to aid this increase, according to the study. It also adds that the goal of doubling tiger numbers from about 2,200 to about 6,000 by 2022 may have been an "ambitious goal" that the agencies of the Global Tiger Recovery Program took on.

"As we move towards the 2022 goal, we must recognise that global efforts put into tiger recovery is aimed at the long-term survival of tigers in the wild, way beyond 2022," said Joseph Vazquez, coordinating author and tiger biologist from WWF India.

This study affirms the need for tiger-range governments to take a holistic, long-term view towards tiger recovery which must include plans for reduced prey animals and other wildlife at the site level, said Dr. Rajesh Gopal, Secretary General of the Global Tiger Forum, an inter-governmental international body that works towards protecting tigers in a press release.

An increase from 62 to 287 tigers in eight sites in India over next 30 to 50 years is possible. — A. Barik

The Hindu-12 December, 2018



The Hindu-12 December, 2018



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